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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# **Selected Speeches and News Releases**

**June 6 - June 13, 1991**

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# Statements

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## **Joint Statement by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 6.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been informed that Rhone-Poulenc has voluntarily stopped the sale of the pesticide aldicarb for use on bananas. This action was taken after the company found excessive residues of aldicarb in some individual bananas in field trial studies in Central and South America, where most bananas are grown. In addition, the banana companies have agreed to stop use immediately, to prohibit shipment of bananas to the United States from farms where aldicarb was used within the past 30 days, and to monitor all shipments of bananas from growing areas where aldicarb has been used in the past 90 days. Aldicarb was used on approximately six percent of the bananas imported into the United States.

“In view of these voluntary actions, consumers can continue their usual consumption of this nutritious commodity with full confidence in its safety,” said EPA Administrator William K. Reilly. “The stop sale of aldicarb for use on bananas and the voluntary agreement by banana companies to cease use and carefully monitor the importation of bananas into the United States are extraordinary and responsible measures to further ensure the safety of our food supply.”

The agreement with the banana companies also includes aldicarb residue tests of the bananas currently in the hands of importers and those in cold storage. In those instances where aldicarb residues are detected, sale and shipment to the United States will be prohibited.

Monitoring of imported bananas by FDA over the past five years has not shown any residues over allowable levels. Because of the possibility of residues over allowable levels in individual bananas, FDA is now conducting a specialized monitoring effort that will permit detection of residues over the allowable levels in each banana.

EPA, FDA and USDA believe, in light of the efforts made by the banana companies, that it is not anticipated that people would consume a



banana with excessive residues. Aldicarb has been used on bananas for 10 or more years with no reported instances of illness.

EPA asked Rhone-Poulenc to conduct the field trial studies on individual bananas because of dietary concerns with aldicarb. The results of this study show that bananas from four of the five fields had relatively low levels of aldicarb. In the fifth field, individual bananas had residues greater than the allowable level.

Aldicarb has been registered since 1970 to control insects, mites and nematodes and is used on a variety of crops. Its use on bananas has been authorized since 1977. Aldicarb has been used on bananas for 10 or more years with no reported instances of illness. EPA, FDA and USDA will continue to review and monitor this situation and take any further action if necessary.

Contact: Cameron Bruemmer, (202) 447-4623.

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by Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan, June 11.

I applaud President Bush's decision today to extend to the Soviet Union an additional \$1.5 billion of agricultural credit guarantees under the GSM-102 program of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The credit guarantees will benefit both American farmers and Russian citizens.

The President's decision was made after a thorough review of the Soviet economy and a presidential fact finding mission led by USDA Under Secretary Richard Crowder. In addition, we had some valuable assistance from the Congress which clarified for us the intent of certain provisions of the 1990 FACT Act that regulate the GSM credit programs.

The Soviet Union has been a major customer for U.S. agricultural commodities for a long time and the decision today will serve to further solidify that relationship. Our current evaluation of, and past experience with, Soviet commitments convinced us that they will fully meet their financial obligations to the United States.

The credit guarantees will be provided in three installments, \$600 million available immediately, \$500 million available in October 1991, and \$400 million available in February 1992.

I am very pleased with the outcome of this decision.

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# Remarks

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**Prepared for Delivery by Edward Madigan, Secretary of Agriculture,  
Berlin Press Club, Berlin, Germany, June 7.**

Thank you for that warm welcome. I'm pleased to be in Berlin because these are dramatic times for all Germans. When the German people said it was time for the Berlin Wall to come down and that Germany must be united again, not everyone listened, nor believed it would happen. With each passing year for the last four decades, the Wall and the tyranny it represented looked more and more a permanent way of life.

But last year, Germany had the courage to tear down the Wall. And every democratic nation applauded the people of this great country for making such an important step. I realize how difficult that decision was for all of Germany. I also realize that there are problems associated with your transition to a unified Germany; however, the world is behind you and your efforts. Germany will be even stronger for that brave move.

That's why I came to this beautiful city today. I think all the leaders of the world should muster the same strength and will of the German people to "tear down the walls" that keep prosperity out. I am referring to the walls that we currently have in our world trade system and I want to spend some time with you today to discuss the opportunities the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations present to us.

I am not here today to lecture, nor am I here today to give an economic dissertation on the benefits of a freer, fairer world trade system. Rather, I thought it important to report to you how Americans view the rest of the world vis-a-vis these trade negotiations. As the United States Secretary of Agriculture, and as a veteran of nearly 20 years in the Congress, I am well-acquainted with what the Bush administration and members of Congress are thinking regarding agricultural reform, and the current trade negotiations.

I will be very candid on these issues, because when crucial issues are at stake, excessive subtleties can sometimes undermine the honest exchange of views which can bring progress.



## The Results Are Obvious

Americans feel that for more than four decades the United States worked to build the economic strength of the free nations of the world. We began with the Marshall Plan in the aftermath of World War II and continued through the years to foster economic vitality wherever we could. In this way, the free nations of Western Europe and the Pacific Rim prospered and became strong enough to help in the defense of freedom. And together the United States and its allies succeeded as the astonishing events of recent months attest.

A robust international trading regime was a cornerstone of the growing economic power of the allied nations. When agreements among nations were needed to attain greater trading vitality, the United States frequently made the concessions necessary to ease the way for the world. We opened our borders and encouraged more trade with the United States to help other nations build, or re-build, their economies. It fell to America to keep the mighty engine of world trade growing. More often than not, this required abandoning some of our goals, especially in agriculture. We made these tough decisions because it was the best for Europe and the world.

In each of the trade rounds, as every member of the GATT was seated around the negotiating table, the rest of the world could always count on the Americans to fold at the last moment in order to “get a deal.” We did that because we knew our capitulation to bring a deal about would serve the world. The strategy worked. The long-term vision has come to pass: Europe, including Germany, is once again a world-class economy and an international trading power. So is Japan and the Asian Tigers.

But as the fall of the Berlin Wall signaled the end of a political era, the Uruguay Round of trade talks also signals the beginning of a new economic era. The shattered and fragile economies of forty years past have grown into the powerful engines of economic vitality of the present. Today the economic powers of the world meet as equals.

These changed circumstances call for new approaches. The American people have recognized these new conditions. They want to see a new, more equal, trading regime established. They want to see American goods and services given the same access to world markets that the world has to our markets. They want open competition for world trade, free from government subsidized exports. Most of all, they want world trading rules to provide equal footing for everyone.



The opportunities for new openings in services, investment and intellectual properties present a vast array of possibilities for industrialized countries such as Germany. But to secure these opportunities, Germany and the EC must be prepared to recognize the needs of other countries. We must all share in the costs as well as the benefits of broadened trade.

I know that you have heard before that the United States will stand firm for its goal of major agricultural trade reform. That is still a major goal of ours. And I want substantial agricultural trade reform just as much, and even more, than my predecessor. Those nations who expect another late minute retreat by the Americans will wait in vain. We are very serious.

There is a way for all of us to gain from the advantages of expanded trade. It's through a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations. But it must be based on fair and equitable trade among economic equals. And it must include agricultural reform. Agricultural reform is the key to greater, more equitable global prosperity.

The principal aim of the GATT is the substantial reduction of tariffs and other barriers to trade in order to increase international commerce and prosperity. The key words are substantial reduction. Substantial reforms in agricultural trade barriers are what the United States seeks. And substantial reforms are required for greater prosperity.

Minor reductions in the height of the Berlin Wall would never have resolved the question of its reality. And minor reductions in trade barriers will not resolve 40 years of ignoring the reform of agricultural trade. Minor adjustments will not lead to greater prosperity for GATT member nations. Real reforms—substantial reforms—are necessary. We cannot hold on to inequalities which favor us, while reacting with righteous indignation against those that work against us.

The benefits of greater commerce are obvious to every producer and consumer in GATT member nations. GATT members have brought down tariffs on manufactured goods from an average of 40 percent in the 1960s to 4-6 percent today. This success shows—by contrast—the failure to reform agricultural commerce all the more strongly. The cost of that failure is now \$300 billion a year to taxpayers and consumers in industrialized nations.

In a way, the demolished Berlin Wall was a less complex barrier: It was a single wall. To effectively reform agricultural trade, we must remove four walls. They are the wall to market access; the wall to export competition; the wall of internal support; and, the wall of unjustified sanitary and phytosanitary regulations.

The time has come to get this job done. The United States wants to get it done this year. I cannot overstate the profound importance of seizing this moment in history. In the United States, we had a hard time securing an extension to our fast-track negotiating authority, authority without which we could not hope to reach a GATT agreement. This authority doesn't last forever, and there's no guarantee we can get it again.

### **The Courage Must Be Gathered**

Time and again, Germany and the other developed nations of Europe have shown themselves to have abundant political courage when confronting serious and urgent issues. That courage must be gathered again to bring down the walls blocking reform of agricultural trade.

These goals are reasonable, but accomplishing them will not be easy. It will take great political courage to make it happen.

Some in Europe's heartland, and even some in my own nation, have said that agreements to reform agricultural trade will cast farmers adrift. But that is completely false. Nothing in the Uruguay Round compels that scenario to occur. Our negotiating stance empowers governments to protect their farmers and agricultural communities in any manner they choose, so long as it is done in ways which do not obstruct international trade or grant special advantage to a nation's trading position.

It's important to understand that the United States, the Cairns Group and the developing nations of the world want a straight forward approach to these negotiations. Agricultural trade must be disciplined in four areas: Market access, export competition, internal support and sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. There is nothing in our goals which would cast our farmers adrift.

A new trade agreement in agriculture will bring more opportunity and greater prosperity for millions of the world's farmers and consumers. If there is fear in Europe, it should be directed at the course of present policies. These policies are building agricultural surpluses at enormous cost to the consumers and taxpayers of Western Europe, and to the exporters of other nations, including many developing countries who wonder how they are to service their foreign debt.



It is irrational anywhere to promote fear of the future. The future offers immense opportunities for us all. The advent of the Second World War has receded a half century into the past, and Europe now exports goods of the highest quality and of every description around the globe. It is doubly irrational for Europe to fear more equitable trade— it is freer trade which has brought Europe to its present prosperity. During the 1980s, trade as a percent of the EC's GDP ranged from 22 percent to 25 percent. Without a doubt, trade has been indispensable to the dynamic economies of Germany and the rest of the EC. Strange that some in Europe now appear to believe that more trade would be destructive, despite their own experience to the contrary.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking a year ago in the United States, invited American capital to pursue ventures in the new Germany, particularly in what formerly was East Germany, to help revitalize that part of your now united nation.

President Bush, in a meeting in Washington recently, gave Chancellor Kohl his promise of greater economic cooperation. But that road goes both ways. It is difficult for Americans to comprehend why the United States should accept the export of automobiles, machine tools, and industrial chemicals from Germany, while European borders to our agricultural goods remain closed. They feel it is fundamentally unfair. Some may argue that Europe can produce all the food and fiber it needs. Americans could argue that we can produce all the autos that we need, or machine tools or pharmaceuticals. The question to both arguments is at what cost?

Some European opponents of trade reform in agriculture like to say, "But our farmers are different from yours. Our farmers have an important societal function." I understand. Farmers play an important societal role in every nation. And everywhere farmers are the same: They work hard; they take big risks; sometimes they fail; sometimes they succeed; they are independent thinkers; and they are more often harmed than helped by government intervention into their business.

America's farmers have always played an important social role in our nation, and they always will. We understand that Europe's farmers are vital to the social fabric of EC nations, and we do not seek to change that. We believe that national agricultural policies can preserve rural life without distorting trade. Such preservation must not come at the cost of harming fellow farmers in the Americas, Asia, Africa or elsewhere.



Without a GATT agreement, the biggest losers will be the developing nations and emerging democracies that must have economy-boosting trade in order to survive. That includes the reformist nations in central and eastern Europe. Without a GATT agreement, it will only get worse.

Recently, we had a great debate in our Congress to continue our negotiating authority for the Uruguay Round. I hope Europe and Japan noticed the difficulty the President and the Administration had in convincing the Congress that the Uruguay Round is the preferred way to achieve prosperity for America and the rest of the world. The tough vote revealed a significant level of concern by the Congress that the United States is always left holding the losing hand in trade agreements— a concern also evident in the rising demands for retaliation against unfair trade practices.

That is why we must resolve our differences in the Uruguay Round. If we don't: the emerging democracies and developing nations won't be given the same opportunity that post-war Europe was given to build their economies which serves to strengthen their democratic governments. If we don't: the U.S. Congress will continue to want to "level the playing field" on a unilateral basis instead of in the context of a multilateral give-and-take negotiation. If we don't: Europe may find that markets it has traditionally exported to are no longer as open.

American leaders have said it before, and I'll say it again: we prefer no GATT agreement to a weak one. America is prepared to negotiate. Let's get started.

### **Pick Up the Hammer**

There was a picture in one of our major daily newspapers a number of months ago of a young German with a sledge hammer. The man had been battering the Wall with this sledge hammer. He had hit the Wall so hard, for so long, that he couldn't swing the hammer even one more time.

Off to the side was another man moving towards the first man, ready to pick up the sledge hammer and continue the struggle. I was struck with the statement it made; it was a statement of the indomitable spirit of the German people; it was a statement of courage and grace. Yet I was even more profoundly moved when I read the caption: the man moving in to pick up the hammer, ready to continue the fight, wasn't even a European. He was a young American.

Did one man know the other? I don't know; the paper didn't say. I'm

not sure it mattered anyway. The only thing that mattered was that two people separated by oceans and continents and language knew that justice and equality knew no boundaries. Political justice and individual liberty was not to be denied.

A few months later, I recalled that picture in my mind. I couldn't forget the vision of those two people sharing in the fight against inequality.

Then I began to see these two people in a different way. They were no longer two individuals against a concrete wall. Rather, they were symbols of two nations, two nations that must likewise attack the trade walls that keep prosperity out, and suffering in; walls that separate those nations that most need trade from those most able to trade with them; walls which must be brought down if there is to be economic opportunity to match the democratic freedoms sweeping our globe.

These are the walls the United States wants to tear down. But America alone can swing the hammer no longer. We must have your help.

I wonder, if a photograph could be taken of this moment in history, would the picture show the European Community stepping in to pick up the sledgehammer? I hope so.

I like to think that the new democratic spirit of a united Germany, this new zeitgeist, would propel you to help the leaders in the Community make the tough political decisions to swing the hammer against unfair trade walls. But it requires action on your part.

We in the United States have had, and will always have, a special attachment to the countries of our heritage. We are proud of you for the progress you have made in the past 40 years. We are also proud that our leaders had the vision and courage to help you in your successful evolution to the status of a world economic power. Now we seek no advantage from you, and we ask for no favors. We ask only that the field be leveled; that each farmer in the world, be he in Central Europe, Central Asia or the center of Iowa or Australia have the opportunity to sell their product in a world free of artificial barriers.

I ask the people of Germany: please, pick up the sledgehammer. Help us bring down the trade walls between nations. Together, with a GATT agreement, we can help this world prosper in ways never known before. We may never have such a moment again.

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# News Releases

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## COUNTY LOAN AND PURCHASE RATES FOR ANNOUNCED FOR SOME 1991-CROPS

WASHINGTON, June 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced county loan and purchase rates for the 1991 crops of corn, soybeans and sorghum.

The 1991-crop county price support rates were determined in accordance with the Agricultural Act of 1949 and reflect changes in the national average price support rates. Some county rates were adjusted to reflect location and transportation costs. These adjustments were limited to a three percent change in addition to the change in the national average price support rate from the 1990-crop.

Copies of the rate schedules are available from the Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA/ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Tom Fink (202) 447-8701

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## USDA INCREASES PORK ORDER IMPORT ASSESSMENTS

WASHINGTON, June 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase assessments on imported pork and pork products by four- to five-hundredths of a cent per pound, or the equivalent of nine- to eleven-hundredths of a cent per kilogram, effective July 10.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the upward adjustment reflects a 23-percent increase in hog prices paid at major U.S. markets this past year. The assessment adjustment is authorized by the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985.

The rate of assessment, one-quarter of one percent of market price, remains unchanged. The rate applies to sales of domestic and imported hogs as well as to imported pork and pork products. The only change is in the amount of the assessment.



“Assessments on imported pork and pork products are established by formula each year, based on U.S. market prices for hogs,” Haley said. “The change will bring importer assessments more in line with those being paid by domestic producers.”

The proposed changes will appear as a final rule in the June 10 Federal Register. Copies and additional information may be obtained from Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs and Procurement Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2624-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 382-1115.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **USDA PROPOSES CHANGES IN CCC SUGAR PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, June 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation is proposing to amend sugar price support program regulations, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

Bjerke said the amendments are required because of changes made to the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and apply to Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1435.

Bjerke said the proposed rule would:

- establish a loan’s maturity date as the last day of the ninth month following the month in which the loan was disbursed, but not later than Sept. 30 following loan disbursement;

- allow processors in areas where CCC determines that sugar beets are normally harvested during July, August and September to obtain a loan with respect to sugar processed from that production and, if the loan is repaid by Sept. 30, request a supplemental nonrecourse loan. The supplemental loan could be requested by the processor on the first day of October and would mature at the end of the ninth month minus the amount of time the initial loan was in effect.

- provide that CCC will not assume any loss in quantity or quality of loan collateral;

- provide that a processor must obtain, and file in the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office, lien waivers

from all producers who deliver to that processor, sugar beets or sugar cane for processing into sugar that is pledged as loan collateral.

The proposed rule will be published in the June 11 Federal Register. Comments should be sent to Director, Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA/ASCS, Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013 and must be received by July 11.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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## **CCC TO ANNOUNCE 1991-CROP LOAN REPAYMENT RATES FOR MINOR OILSEEDS**

WASHINGTON, June 10—Repayment levels for canola, rapeseed and flaxseed will be announced and become effective at 7 a.m. EST on June 14, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation. The rates will be available at county offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Loan repayment levels for these oilseeds will continue to be the principal amount of the loan, plus accrued interest, until June 14.

Repayment levels for these oilseeds will be subject to change on Friday of each week thereafter.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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## **FGIS PUBLISHES NEW MOISTURE METER CHARTS**

WASHINGTON, June 10—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service has published revised Conversion Charts for the Motomco Moisture Meter. The revisions correct a statistical bias which became apparent during the agency's scheduled review of the charts.

New moisture meter charts will be implemented for: oats, chart 0-1, (originally issued 5/15/87); low-moisture oats, chart 1-2-89 (issued 5/15/89); two-rowed barley, chart H-2 (issued 5/15/87); and Hard Red Spring Wheat, chart W-3-A (issued 5/1/63).



The new charts should be used for all official inspections performed on or after June 15.

The Motomco Moisture Meter is the officially approved instrument for testing moisture in grains.

Technical contact: Jim Rampton, FGIS Quality Assurance and Research Division, (816) 758-6518.

Dana Stewart (202) 447-5091

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## **ARS INDUCTS TWO SCIENTISTS TO HALL OF FAME**

WASHINGTON, June 11—A fruit breeder and a soil erosion expert will be inducted today into the Hall of Fame at the chief scientific agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Horticulturist John H. Weinberger and statistician Walter H. Wischmeier are both retired scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"These two scientists have made contributions with major impacts on agriculture here and around the globe," said ARS administrator R. Dean Plowman. "They are still active in the scientific community, and younger scientists would do well to set similar goals in their careers."

Plowman will present plaques to Weinberger and Wischmeier at a 6:30 p.m. ceremony today at the U.S. National Arboretum here. Other plaques citing their achievements will be on permanent display in the ARS National Visitor Center in nearby Beltsville, Md.

ARS scientists inducted into the Hall of Fame must be either retired or eligible to retire and be recognized for excellence by national and international colleagues in the scientific community.

"Dr. Weinberger bred and released 34 new fruit varieties and three disease-resistant fruit rootstocks while with ARS," said Plowman. "His contributions to plant breeding here improved fruit production worldwide."

Flame Seedless grapes, for example, are the second most important seedless variety produced in the United States, Plowman said. This variety also is grown in Australia, Chile, Israel and other major table grape production areas around the world.



Weinberger's varieties of nectarines are the basis for Italy's nectarine industry and also are extensively cultivated in France. Stone fruits and grapes from Chile appear in U.S. supermarkets in winter, largely because of varieties he developed in California, Plowman said.

Before retiring from ARS in 1973, Weinberger worked at the Postharvest Quality and Genetics Research Unit in Fresno, Calif.

Wischmeier developed the Universal Soil Loss Equation, or USLE, the primary tool used in conservation planning worldwide.

"First published in 1958 and revised in 1978, the equation was the result of a pioneering use of mathematics to solve agricultural problems," Plowman said. The equation significantly helped landusers understand the factors that affect erosion on each field. It also helped establish limits of soil loss from these fields, said Plowman.

The equation, he noted, is used to predict sheet and rill erosion and assist in conservation compliance planning under the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills. To be eligible for USDA assistance, farmers who have highly erodible land must develop approved conservation plans. Conservation compliance plans are prepared with technical help from USDA's Soil Conservation Service. More than a million such farm and ranch plans were developed by 1989.

Wischmeier's pioneering work on mathematical simulations of soil erosion led to development of many physically based models for erosion prediction, control, evaluation and simulation.

Before he retired in 1975, he was research leader of the Soil Loss Data Center located at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

Vince Mazzola (301) 344-1712

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## **USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON AN INTERIM PACA REGULATION**

WASHINGTON, June 11—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comments on procedures affecting firms and individuals regulated by the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA).

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the procedures implement a 1990 Farm Bill provision authorizing complaints of commodity misrepresentation to be filed under the PACA.

Under the new procedures, it will be illegal to use the unique name or geographical designation of a commodity promoted with funds collected under a federal marketing order to promote sales of a similar commodity grown outside the area regulated by that order. This kind of abuse would constitute misbranding and constitute a violation of the PACA, Haley said.

Adopted in 1930, the PACA establishes a system of fair trading in the marketing of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate or foreign commerce, from grower to consumer. The law requires prompt payment, prohibits misrepresentation of fruits and vegetables, and authorizes USDA to mediate contractual disputes. Administered as a self-supporting program, the PACA is financed through license fees collected from firms requiring a license.

The procedure will appear as an interim final rule in the June 11 Federal Register. Comments, in duplicate, should be received by July 11 in the office of Floyd E. White, Misbranding Officer, PACA Branch, Room 2095- S, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Copies of the Federal Register announcement are available at that address; or telephone (202) 447-5073.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF GUATEMALA "MOSCAMED" PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, June 12—Eradication using integrated pest control has been selected in an environmental analysis (EA) as the preferred alternative in an international cooperative effort addressing the Mediterranean fruit fly problem in Guatemala, a USDA official announced today.

Integrated control relies upon the effective use of one or more control methods. This could include applying a pesticide bait spray to reduce fertile Medfly populations, followed immediately by the release of millions of sterile insects.

"The final EA is the result of more than two years of analysis on the potential effects of a Mediterranean fruit fly or "Moscamed" program on the environment," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

“Potential losses to U.S. farmers and consumers could run as high as \$831 million yearly if the Medfly were to become established in the continental United States. Eradication in Guatemala reduces the threat of introduction of this pest into the United States,” Glosser said.

The EA considered three alternatives—no action, creation of a permanent barrier zone, and Medfly eradication from Guatemala. Six control methods were evaluated. Public comment was instrumental to the development of this environmental analysis.

“The EA serves as the basis for APHIS participation in an internationally led effort to eradicate the Medfly in Guatemala and will be an important tool in future program decision making,” said Dr. Alex Thiermann, deputy administrator for APHIS’s International Services.

“The EA favors an integrated control approach to eradication because it offers the best combination of program efficacy and environmental soundness.”

“Sterile flies disrupt the reproduction of native Medflies. This prevents future generations of this destructive pest and averts further fruit loss,” Thiermann said.

The final EA may be viewed at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Copies of the EA also are available for review at commercial libraries of the American embassies in Mexico and Guatemala.

Copies may be obtained by writing to Michael T. Werner, Deputy Director, Environmental Analysis and Documentation, BBEP, APHIS, USDA, Room 828, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782; Mr. Robert Strong, Regional Director, International Services, APHIS, USDA, American Embassy-Mexico, Paseo De La Reforma 305, Room 225, Col. Cuauhtemoc, 06500 Mexico, D.F.; or Mr. Marshal Kirby, Area Director, International Services American Embassy-Guatemala, Avenida La Reforma 7-01, Zona 10, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Natalie Bosecker (301) 436-7799

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## LAUNDRY WHITENER HELPS "DEAR ABBY" PUT GYPSY MOTHS THROUGH THE WRINGER

WASHINGTON—The stuff in laundry bleach that makes whites whiter and brights brighter could hang gypsy moth caterpillars out to dry.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist says a fluorescent whitener—which gives bleach its punch—increases by at least ten-fold the number of caterpillars killed in laboratory tests by a virus named Abby.

Abby is a strain of a natural caterpillar-killing virus that was selected for its lethal potency over 10 years ago by Martin Shapiro, an entomologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Shapiro uncovered the laundry whitener's extra "kick" when he set out to protect Abby from the sun's ultraviolet rays, which normally degrade the virus and render it ineffective.

In tests, the laundry whitener not only blocked UV rays; it also mysteriously enhanced the virus' effectiveness, well beyond what one would expect from just blocking UV rays, according to a report in the latest issue of Agricultural Research magazine.

Shapiro, who works at the ARS Insect Biocontrol Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., suspects that either the whitener helps the virus multiply inside the insect or it somehow pushes the virus through the insect faster—or a combination of the two.

Since the whitener is found in products that are widely used, Shapiro is confident it should cause no environmental concern.

He found that it works on other viruses and insects, but his main interest is using it for Abby.

In 1978, Shapiro located the most potent virus strain he could find in Abington, Mass., naming the strain after the town. Shapiro repeatedly infected caterpillars with Abby, selecting those viral strains that killed the most caterpillars in the shortest time.

In later laboratory tests, he says, the best performing Abby was ten times more potent than the standard virus registered to kill gypsy moths in parks and forests.

A cost-efficient system for producing Abby is almost ready for commercial use, Shapiro says. He and entomologists Edward M. Dougherty and Dwight E. Lynn at Beltsville devised a method for growing the virus in a gypsy moth cell line that Lynn developed.

According to Dougherty, the virus is reproduced in selected gypsy moth cells placed in lab dishes. This cell culture technique overcomes the

problem of having to house and feed caterpillars in which to grow virus.

The researchers and ARS have applied for patents on Abby and the new use of the fluorescent whitener.

Shapiro says the agency has granted an exclusive license for Abby to American Cyanamid. Several companies have expressed interest in licensing the whitener for viruses.

Accidentally released in 1869 from an entomologist's home in Medford, Mass., gypsy moths infest 13 million acres throughout the northeast, south to North Carolina and east to Ohio. In addition, Michigan, California, Oregon, Washington, Utah, and Colorado have also had gypsy moth infestations.

A severe infestation can completely defoliate a tree. Three years of complete defoliation usually kills a tree, while evergreen, young, or weak trees may succumb in just one season.

Overall, ARS is spending more than \$1.3 million in fiscal year 1991 on research to control this voracious pest, the agency magazine reports. Advances from other gypsy moth studies follow.

—A new dispenser for the female gypsy moth's sex attractant has been developed. Each year, federal and state officials set out 300,000 traps baited with the attractant, called disparlure, to monitor moth numbers. But officials can only buy the patented dispensers from one source.

To offer an alternative, chemists Barbara A. Leonhardt and E. David DeVilbiss, both of the ARS Insect Chemical Ecology Laboratory at Beltsville, and Victor C. Mastro of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, developed a new pheromone-impregnated strip for traps. In small field tests, the dispenser attracted gypsy moth males just as well as the currently used dispenser. Large field tests are planned. A patent is sought on the dispenser and several companies want to license it.

—*Bacillus thuringiensis* bacteria can be a cost-efficient and effective control alternative to diflubenzuron, which kills caterpillars by stopping molting—a process insects use to grow. If diflubenzuron gets into waterways, there's concern it could pose a problem because crabs, shellfish and other aquatic life also molt.

But the alternative, natural Bt bacteria, can cost more to use because two doses are recommended. Working with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and Montgomery County, Md., ARS entomologist Ralph E. Webb at Beltsville and others developed a cheaper plan for using Bt.



Officials count egg masses in the winter, before eggs hatch. One Bt application is enough where there are low densities of egg masses.

“Monitoring may indicate that 20 percent of the area requires a second application,” Webb says. In that case, a state or county would save the cost of automatically respraying the other 80 percent. Webb says his test shows less than 30 percent defoliation—“an acceptable level of control.”

—Wasps have shown new promise as part of a control program. *Coccysgomimus disparis*, a Japanese parasitic wasp, was released by ARS researchers in the late 1970s. Scientists couldn’t find it until last year, when 97 wasps appeared at 11 different sites in the Northeast. When scientists collected caterpillars from those spots, 4 percent had parasites in them.

“Anything over 10 percent is considered highly promising,” says entomologist Paul W. Schaefer of the ARS Beneficial Insects Introduction Laboratory in Newark, Del. Tests on this and other possible biocontrols continue.

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Issued: June 12, 1991

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## USDA PROTECTS EIGHT NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, June 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of eight new varieties of seed-reproduced plants, including garden bean, cotton, perennial ryegrass and soybean.

Kenneth H. Evans, an official with USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import, and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders’ records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable. The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

—the Podsquad variety of garden bean, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;

—the Acala Maxxa and the Acala Royale varieties of cotton, developed by California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, Bakersfield, Calif.;



—the Lankart 142 and the Paymaster HS200 varieties of cotton, developed by Cargill Hybrid Seeds, Aiken, Texas;

—the Seville variety of perennial ryegrass, developed by R. J. Peterson Enterprises Inc., Hillsboro, Ore.; and

—the 6955 and the 6995 varieties of soybean, developed by the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

The certificates of protection for the Acala Maxxa, the Acala Royale, the Lankart 142, and the Paymaster HS200 cotton varieties are being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

The plant variety protection program is administered by AMS and provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seedreproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

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## **USDA EXPANDS EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF PROVISIONS**

WASHINGTON, June 12—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced additional special provisions available to aid producers who have been unable to plant crops due to natural disasters.

An earlier announcement of special disaster provisions had authorized producers in counties declared disaster areas by the president or secretary of agriculture to file for prevented planting or failed acreage credit and to withdraw from the 1991 Acreage Reduction Program without paying liquidated damages. In addition, state Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees had been authorized to extend final certification dates.

“These provisions are now also extended to counties contiguous to those that have these official disaster designations,” Madigan said. “In addition, state ASC committees are being granted authority to declare that, even in counties which have not been designated as disaster areas, producers may be eligible for these special disaster provisions on a crop by crop basis. This authority is contingent on recommendation by the county ASC committee, based on a Disaster Assessment Report, that there has been a loss of at least 30 percent of the crop.”

“Continued disaster conditions, caused by flooding, drought or other conditions beyond a producer’s control, have made these additional

measures necessary," Madigan said. "Adequate relief must be provided now, without waiting for a presidential or secretarial disaster designation."

Madigan said producers should contact their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices for further information.

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## USDA TO IMPLEMENT PESTICIDE DATA PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, June 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture this month will begin a new \$16-million cooperative federal-state pesticide residue monitoring program for food, beginning with fresh fruits and vegetables, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

"America's food supply is already the safest in the world," Madigan said. "The new program we're launching will develop and communicate objective, comprehensive information on pesticide residues in food to help maintain our enviable safety record.

"Under the new program, fruits and vegetables will be tested at wholesale distribution centers to ensure that consumers will not be buying foods that have any harmful pesticide residues," Madigan said.

USDA will tabulate the results of the tests and provide the data to the Environmental Protection Agency for use in setting pesticide tolerance levels. The data also will be shared with federal and state agencies for use in determining policies intended to safeguard the public health.

USDA consulted with EPA and the Food and Drug Administration during the development of the program, a move designed to provide data consistent with these agencies' needs.

Some of the leading fruit and vegetable producing states currently maintain sampling programs for pesticide residues in agricultural commodities. The new USDA program, which will be administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, is expected to augment these existing programs.

California, Florida, Michigan, New York, Texas and Washington have already signed cooperative agreements with AMS. Most of USDA's \$16-million program funds will be shared with these and other fruit and vegetable producing states.

In addition to AMS, three other USDA agencies will play important roles in the program. The National Agricultural Statistics Service will collect on-farm pesticide-use data. The Economic Research Service will study implications of pesticide use in agriculture and will estimate effects of alternative pesticides practices. The Human Nutrition Information Service, in cooperation with EPA and FDA, will decide which foods to test so that the population's exposure to residues can be assessed realistically.

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